Proposed Barnburgh Cemetery Extension – Public Consultation on Loss of Open Space

1. Why are we consulting residents?

The Parish Council is exploring the possibility of extending the cemetery on Belvoir Avenue. The existing cemetery has around six years of burial capacity remaining, so we must consider future provision.

City of Doncaster Council has indicated that part of the open space behind the cemetery could be made available for this purpose. However, this land is currently classed as informal open space, and planning rules require the Parish Council to consult residents before any planning application can be considered.

This consultation is **not** a planning application.

It is simply to understand whether residents support the idea of using part of the open space for a cemetery extension.

2. What land is being considered?

The area under consideration is the section of open space on Belvoir Avenue directly behind the existing cemetery.

If the project went ahead:

- the children's swings would need to be moved further down the site
- the Parish Council would liaise with City of Doncaster Council to replace or improve the play equipment
- the remaining open space would continue to be available for public use

A simple map showing the land which would be used as a cemetery extension is included.

3. What does "loss of open space" mean?

Under planning policy, this land is designated as informal open space.

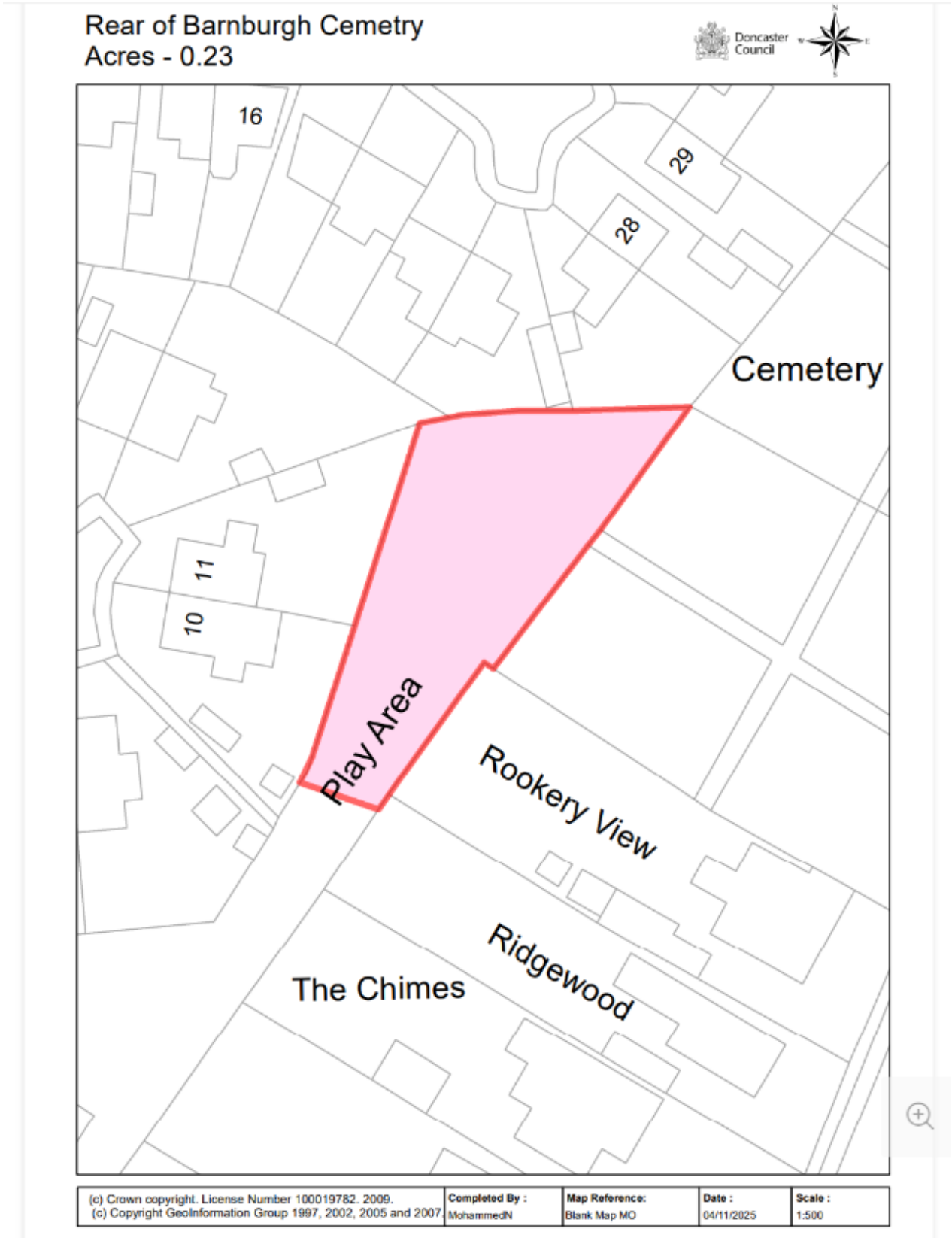
If part of it is used for a cemetery extension, this is treated as a loss of open space, even though the land is not formally laid out as a park.

Planning rules require the Parish Council to:

- ask residents directly whether they support the loss of this open space
- explain how the remaining open space would be protected or improved
- provide evidence that the community has been properly consulted

This consultation is therefore a legal requirement before any planning application can be submitted.

The Open Space that Would Be Lost Due to the Proposed Cemetery Extension



View of the Total Open Space/Play Area

Source

4. What other issues might affect the project?

Planning officers have advised that a cemetery extension would also need to meet a number of wider requirements, including:

- Groundwater protection
- Soil suitability for burials
- Biodiversity and ecology
- Drainage and flood risk
- Long-term land stability

- Compliance with burial law (which may change in coming years)

These issues are not part of this consultation, but they may affect whether the project is ultimately viable.

5. What are the options?

At this stage, the Parish Council is considering three broad options:

Option A – Support the use of part of the open space for a cemetery extension

This would allow the Parish Council to explore the project further, including environmental surveys and planning advice.

Option B – Do not support the loss of open space

The Parish Council would need to explore alternative burial provision, including working with neighbouring authorities.

Option C – Unsure / Need more information

Residents may feel they need more detail before expressing a view.

6. How to give your views

Residents can respond by:

- completing the online survey on the parish council website (link to be added)
- returning the paper form delivered with this pack
- attending a drop-in session (details to be added)

The consultation will run for six weeks.

7. Consultation Questions

To meet planning policy requirements, the Parish Council must understand **how the open space is currently used** as well as whether residents support the proposed cemetery extension.

Please answer all questions below.

A. How You Use the Open Space

Q1. How often do you use the open space behind the cemetery?

(Please tick one)

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Several times a week
- ☐ Once a week
- ☐ Once or twice a month
- ☐ A few times a year
- ☐ Never

Q2. What do you use the open space for?

(Please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Children's play (swings/play area)
- ☐ Dog walking
- ☐ Walking/exercise
- ☐ Informal recreation (e.g., sitting, picnics)
- ☐ Access to other areas (e.g., footpaths)
- ☐ Meeting other residents
- ☐ I do not use the open space
- ☐ Other (please specify):

B. Views on the Proposed Cemetery Extension

Q3. Do you support using part of the open space behind the cemetery for a cemetery extension?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Q4. If you answered "No", please tell us your main concerns.

Q5. If you answered "Yes", what improvements would you like to see to the remaining open space?

Q6. Do you have any comments about the relocation or replacement of the children's swings?

Q7. Do you have any other comments you would like the Parish Council to consider?

Privacy Notice – Cemetery Extension Consultation

Barnburgh & Harlington Parish Council is collecting your personal data (such as your name, address and any comments you provide) for the purpose of carrying out this public consultation on the proposed cemetery extension.

Your information will be used only to analyse responses, prepare a summary report, and demonstrate to City of Doncaster Council that residents have been consulted. Your data will be seen only by the Parish Council and, where necessary, by planning officers reviewing the consultation evidence.

Our lawful basis for processing this information is Article 6(1)(e) UK GDPR – Public Task.

We will keep your responses for 12 months after the consultation closes and then securely delete them. You have the right to access, correct or request deletion of your data.

For more information, please see the Council's full Privacy Notice at:
www.barnburghandharlingtonpc.org/privacy

If you have any questions, contact the Parish Clerk at: clerk@barnburghandharlingtonpc.org or 07432 025488.

Frequently Asked Questions – Proposed Cemetery Extension Consultation

1. Why is the Parish Council considering a cemetery extension?

The existing cemetery on Belvoir Avenue has around six years of burial capacity remaining. The Parish Council must plan ahead to ensure that local burial provision continues for future generations.

2. Where would the extension be located?

The area being considered lies directly behind the existing cemetery, within part of the open space that includes the children's play area. No decision has been made yet — this consultation is to understand residents' views before any planning application is considered.

3. What does "loss of open space" mean?

Under planning rules, the land behind the cemetery is classed as *informal open space*. If part of it were used for a cemetery extension, it would count as a *loss of open space for planning purposes*. The Parish Council must therefore consult residents to test public support for this change.

4. Would the play area be affected?

If the project went ahead, the swings would need to be moved further down the site. The Parish Council would look to replace or improve the play equipment as part of the scheme, ensuring the area remains safe and accessible for children.

5. Is this consultation a planning application?

No. This is an early, standalone consultation required by planning policy. It helps the Council understand community views before deciding whether to prepare a planning application.

6. Will all the Land on Belvoir Avenue behind the existing cemetery be used for the cemetery extension?

No. Only a **small portion** of the open space is being considered. The majority of the green area would remain available for public use.

7. Why this site?

This is the only area of land currently identified by City of Doncaster Council as potentially suitable and available for cemetery use. No other viable sites have been offered to the Parish Council.

8. What sort of timeline is the Parish Council considering?

The Parish Council is considering the followiing time-line.

- 6-weeks for the consultation
- 2 weeks to review the responses
- Parish Council decision at September Parish Council Meeting
- If the proposed cemetery extension is supported: environmental surveys
- If viable: planning application
- If not viable: alternative burial provision explored

9. What happens after the consultation?

All responses will be reviewed and summarised. The results will be shared publicly and with City of Doncaster Council's Planning Officers. Parish Councillors will then decide whether to proceed with further feasibility work or explore alternative options.

10. What other assessments would be needed if the project goes ahead?

If the proposal moves forward, specialist surveys would be required — including groundwater, ecology, archaeology, and accessibility assessments — to ensure the land is suitable for burial use and meets environmental and equality standards.

11. Will residents have another chance to comment?

Yes. If a planning application is submitted, City of Doncaster Council will carry out a formal statutory consultation, giving residents another opportunity to comment.

12. How can I share my views now?

You can respond by completing the online survey, returning the paper form included with this pack, or attending one of the drop-in sessions. Details are provided in the consultation leaflet.

13. What will happen if residents do not support the proposal?

If public support is weak or divided, the Parish Council may decide not to proceed and instead explore alternative burial provision, such as partnership arrangements with neighbouring authorities or ceasing to be a burial authority once the existing cemetery has reached capacity.

14. How will my feedback be used?

All responses will be recorded and analysed. The results will help councillors make an informed decision and will form part of the evidence required by planning policy.

15. Who can I contact for more information?

You can contact the Parish Clerk:
Email: clerk@barnburghandharlingtonpc.org
Tel: 07432025488